

EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

Approve the Action Plan

The school board is responsible for approving the local school's action plan and for ensuring that the community is informed about the school's progress toward meeting the goals of the plan. Best practice during the development of the plan would be to involve the board as a working partner on the action planning team.

Set the
Context

Build the
Team

Analyze and
Interpret
Data

Set Priorities

Write the
Plan

**Approve
the Plan**

Implement
the Plan

Report to the
Community

Approving the Action Plan

Who approves the action plan?

The school board is responsible for approving the local school's action plan and for ensuring that the community is continually informed about the school's progress toward meeting the goals of the plan.

For a technical center, the school board of the host school must approve the plan and report to the communities of each of the sending schools.

The board's support for and understanding of the process and the goals are keys to success. Through participation of the board on the action planning team, and with constant communication with the whole board during the planning process, schools should have earned the board's support for the plan.

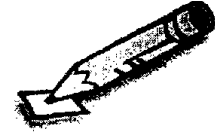
What makes the plan likely to succeed?

Although the Equal Educational Opportunity Act (Act 60) requires formal approval of the action plan by the school board only, agreement among the members of the action planning team, the school staff, and the school board will form the basis for success.

- The planning team needs to agree about the findings and recommendations to be shared with the staff as a whole.
- The staff needs to agree about the goals and activities that will become the focus of their work.
- The action plan should be shared with parents and the community at large.
- The plan should focus and unite the school community to attain the stated goals.

Reaching agreement through consensus and basing the plan on data generally offers the best chance at success. Consensus in its simplest form is collective agreement. Of course, it is not that simple in practice. Finding the proposal or action that all members will support is not always an easy task. Achieving consensus requires time, the active participation of all group members, the application of good communication skills, creative thinking, and open mindedness.

Key Ideas



- ▶ The school board approves the action plan
- ▶ Action planning is a shared effort
- ▶ Develop a broad consensus on goals and activities



Tools

Resources for reaching agreement:

The Team Handbook for Educators
By Scholtes, et. al.

Building Systems for Professional Growth
By Murray & Arbuckle

(See bibliography for complete citations)